



# Confessions of a Martian rock

July 25, 2016



## [Confessions of a Martian rock](#)

by Nina Lanza

I look at rocks on Mars for a living—a *lot* of rocks. Because of this, I've gotten pretty good at knowing what to expect and what not to expect when analyzing the chemical make-up of a Martian rock. You expect to find lots of basalt, the building block of all planets.

What I didn't expect were large amounts of manganese. So when my colleagues and I found exactly that on a Martian rock called "Caribou" back in 2013, we thought, "This has to be a mistake."

This story first appeared in [Discover](#).

**Los Alamos National Laboratory**

[www.lanl.gov](http://www.lanl.gov)

**(505) 667-7000**

**Los Alamos, NM**

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the Department of Energy's NNSA

